

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 19

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to California Earthquake Preparedness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 9, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 77, Corbett. California Earthquake Preparedness Month.

This bill would declare the month of April 2012 as California Earthquake Preparedness Month, and would urge all Californians to engage in activities related to earthquake preparedness during the month.

WHEREAS, In California, on average, there are 37,300 earthquakes that are recorded and analyzed per year, amounting to over 100 earthquakes per day; and

WHEREAS, There are 15,000 fault lines that lay across California, with the San Andreas and the Hayward Faults being significantly active fault zones; and

WHEREAS, California has the most damaging earthquakes of any state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, California is known to be one of two states that record the most earthquakes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Of the 15 largest earthquakes documented in the continental United States, eight have occurred in California; and

WHEREAS, The majority of Californians live within 20 miles of a major earthquake fault; and

WHEREAS, There is a probability of more than 99 percent that in the next 30 years Californians will experience one or more magnitude 6.7 or greater quakes, potentially capable of causing extensive damage and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey estimates that there is a 62 percent chance that a major earthquake will strike the Bay Area within the next 30 years; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates, on average, that the annual capital losses due to earthquakes are \$4,400,000,000 and of that total, \$3,300,000,000 of those losses occur in California alone; and

WHEREAS, The danger posed by earthquakes to people is not solely isolated to land, but also from the oceans in the form of tsunamis; and

WHEREAS, Tsunamis have hit the west coast on numerous occasions, including the 1946 Aleutian tsunami that produced wave heights of 12 to 16 feet at Half Moon Bay, Muir Beach, Arena Cove, and Santa Cruz,

California; the 1960 Chilean tsunami that produced wave heights of 12 feet at Crescent City, California; and the 1964 Alaskan tsunami that generated waves of more than 20 feet at Crescent City, California, causing \$7,500,000 in damage and 11 deaths; and

WHEREAS, The March 2011 earthquake in Japan created a tsunami that hit the coasts of California causing over \$36,000,000 in damage statewide to harbors located in the Counties of Del Norte, Monterey, and Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, Earthquakes have resulted in loss of life, significant property damage, and indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, Mitigating measures can save lives, reduce property damage, and alleviate traffic and economic dislocation caused by earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that for every dollar spent on earthquake mitigation, on average, \$4 are saved if an earthquake occurs; and

WHEREAS, Education about the danger of earthquakes in California and the value of mitigation is imperative to taking action at the city, county, and state levels of government; and

WHEREAS, It is important for these levels of government to work cooperatively with citizens, each other, the federal government, and other nations to mitigate damage caused by earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, It is important for utilities and private businesses to understand the impacts of an earthquake and be properly prepared and informed of potential risks; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that we examine the lessons learned from recent earthquakes in Baja, as well as in the nations of Japan and Chile, and that we share our knowledge with other states and nations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby declares the month of April 2012 as California Earthquake Preparedness Month, and urges all Californians to engage in education, evaluation of seismic hazards, mitigation, safety activities, and the exchange of information related to earthquake preparedness and with other states and nations during the month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.